

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: June 30, 2000

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on June 23, 2000

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Francis X. Lyons
Regional Administrator

David A. Ullrich
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities and training/conferences:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Emergency Response, Wilson Steel and Wire, Chicago, Illinois

On June 19, 2000, the former Wilson Steel and Wire warehouse located at 48th Street and Western Avenue in Chicago, Illinois, caught fire. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) responded at the request of the City of Chicago.

On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Steve Faryan and Al Gebien initially responded during the incident (fire) by providing air monitoring assistance. OSC Steve Faryan also conducted a follow-up site investigation and stabilization. The warehouse contained 500 drums; over 100 vats and tanks; pits with unknown chemicals; a laboratory with reactive compounds; friable asbestos; lead and tin dust; smelting residues; and, four above-ground tanks.

U.S. EPA and the City of Chicago stabilized the materials and secured the property to prevent access. Several windows and doors were boarded up and the main gate was secured. Currently, due to the structural instability of the building, entry is limited until partial demolition is accomplished. The City of Chicago may provide partial demolition of the building so that the drums can be stabilized and removed.

U.S. EPA is preparing an Action Memorandum to complete the removal of the wastes, pits, tanks, laboratory, above-ground tanks, and asbestos. The building has been abandoned for two years and the property owners have declared bankruptcy. The removal action is estimated to be completed in 6-8 months, after which the City of Chicago may demolish the whole building and redevelop the seven-acre parcel of land.

Contacts: Steve Faryan (312-353-9351)
Al Gebien (312-886-1304)

Mobile Radiation Scanner Used, Lindsay Light Sites, Chicago, Illinois

During June 20-22, 2000, U.S. EPA Region 5 used the U.S. EPA-Las Vegas Mobile Scanner Van to detect potential thorium contamination in vicinity of the Lindsay Light sites in the Streeterville area of Chicago, Illinois. The approximate area covered by the Scanner Van was Michigan Avenue to Navy Pier and from the Ogden Slip to Ontario Street. The Scanner Van is a modified commercial delivery van that contains two extremely sensitive detectors to detect radioactive material both above and below ground. The van can only detect out of its right side, so it was necessary to drive the wrong way on one-way streets. The van was manned by U.S. EPA staff from Las Vegas (Roger Shura and Mark Sells), and driven about 5 miles per hour, stopping occasionally to get a better reading. All work was performed in cooperation with the City of Chicago's Department of Environment and Department of Transportation. The Department of Transportation provided an escort vehicle and the Department of Environment was the "permittee of record," which kept U.S. EPA from being asked to get a parade permit by the City of Chicago.

The Mobile Scanner Van has been used by U.S. EPA for about 19 years, and in U.S. EPA Region 5 the Scanner Van has also been used in West Chicago, Illinois and Ottawa, Illinois.

Contacts: Larry Jensen (312-886-5026)
Fred Micke (312-886-5123)
Verneta Simon (312-886-3601)

Meeting, Sheboygan County Conservation Association, Sheboygan Harbor and River Superfund Site, Sheboygan, Wisconsin

On June 21, 2000, Tom Short briefed the Sheboygan County Conservation Association on the status of the Sheboygan Harbor and River Superfund site, Sheboygan, Wisconsin. State Congressional members and the press were also in attendance. The Sheboygan County Conservation Association represents 32 different nature and conservation clubs in the State of Wisconsin and is one of the most active and influential groups in the State. The presentation was well received and the U.S. EPA received favorable remarks in the Sheboygan Press. The Sheboygan Harbor and River site Record of Decision, signed in May 2000, calls for the dredging of polychlorinated biphenyl-contaminated sediment and flood plain soil. The cost of the remedy is \$41 million.

Contact: Tom Short (312-353-8826)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Presentation, International Lead Symposium, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

During May 22-26, 2000, an international lead symposium (Symposium) was held in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Brad Bradley and Pat Van Leeuwen from Region 5 were in attendance. Attendees came from throughout the United States, as well as Russia, Australia, Peru, Mexico, Canada, and Romania.

Most of the discussion at the Symposium addressed the draft five-year review for the Bunker Hill Superfund site in Kellogg, Idaho. This was the first five-year review that used blood lead monitoring as part of the remedial performance goals. The interpretation of the vast blood lead data collected at the Bunker Hill site was debated, including the meaning of blood lead level declines observed during and after residential yard cleanups. The effectiveness of large-scale residential cleanups in reducing children's blood lead levels has been criticized by potentially responsible parties and some local municipalities.

Other presentations included cleanup implementation issues throughout the world. Brad Bradley made a presentation about the NL Industries Superfund site in Granite City, Illinois, including references to lessons learned that will be incorporated into a reference manual being developed by the

Lead Sites Workgroup, of which Mr. Bradley is a Co-Chair.

Contact: Brad Bradley (312-886-4742)

Domestic Preparedness Chemical Tabletop Exercise, Akron, Ohio

On June 16, 2000, On-Scene Coordinator Jim Augustyn participated as a player in a Chemical Incident Tabletop Exercise to respond to a Weapons of Mass Destruction Incident in the City of Akron. The exercise was the culmination of the week long Train-the-Trainer, Emergency Responder, Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical (NBC) course conducted in Akron. The course was sponsored by the National Domestic Preparedness Program. The one-day "Measured Response" facilitated tabletop exercise was conducted to provide local, State, and Federal participants with an opportunity to evaluate current response concepts, plans, and capabilities for a response to a terrorist chemical incident. The exercise involved a terrorist nerve agent (Sarin) attack at the Greater Akron Police Athletic Association's Police and Fire Games competition being held at the James A. Rhodes Arena on the campus of Akron University. The objectives of the exercise focused on the City's role in four distinct time frames: Warning, Notification and Response, Response, and Recovery and Restoration.

Contact: Jim Augustyn (440-250-1742)

Meeting, Western Lake Erie Area Regional Environmental Emergencies Team, Windsor, Ontario, Canada

On June 20-21, 2000, On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) Jim Augustyn and Joe Fredle, Emergency Response Branch, attended the annual meeting of Environment Canada's Western Lake Erie Area Regional Environmental Emergencies Team (REET) held in Windsor, Ontario, Canada. The meeting included representatives from the U.S. EPA, U.S. Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the City of Detroit, Canadian Coast Guard, Canadian Federal Agencies, Provincial Agencies, and various local agencies. The meeting included two table top exercises to facilitate the discussion of roles and responsibilities during a large environmental incident that would impact both Canada and the United States. The first exercise involved an oil spill from a Canadian vessel into the Detroit River and the second exercise involved a

toxic plume blowing into the City of Detroit from a fire at a chemical company in Windsor, Ontario. The meeting was well attended and provided an excellent opportunity to meet face-to-face with U.S. EPA's Canadian counterparts. Additional REET meetings are scheduled for later in the Fall for other planning areas between the U.S. and Canada.

Contact: Jim Augustyn (440-250-1742)

Counter Terrorism Functional Field Exercise, Toledo, Ohio

On June 22, 2000, On-Scene Coordinator Jim Augustyn participated as a player in the Domestic Preparedness Chemical Weapon Functional Exercise at the Willis B. Boyer Museum Ship in Toledo, Ohio. The incident involved the release of a nerve agent on the museum ship while a party was taking place. The scenario exercised the Crisis Management Phase of a terrorist incident and included chemical identification, evidence collection, and mass

casualty decontamination. Numerous local, State, and Federal agencies participated in the exercise.

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